



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BRANSON MAN SENTENCED FOR FALSE I.D., SOCIAL SECURITY FRAUD, ILLEGAL FIREARM

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Branson, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for assuming a false identity using another person's name and Social Security number and illegally possessing a firearm.

Dennis Lynn Charlton, 53, of Branson, was sentenced by U.S. Chief District Judge Dean Whipple this morning to two years and nine months in federal prison without parole.

On Feb. 24, 2005, **Charlton** pleaded guilty to the charges contained in a May 5, 2004, federal indictment. **Charlton** admitted that he renewed a Missouri driver's license in Branson West that contained his photograph and the name and Social Security number of another individual. In the course of renewing the license, **Charlton** falsely represented to the Missouri Department of Revenue that the individual's name and Social Security number belonged to him. **Charlton** admitted that he did so to deceive the Missouri Department of Revenue as to his true identity, Graves said.

Charlton also admitted that he was in possession of a .410-gauge Montgomery Wards shotgun and a .22-caliber /.410-gauge Stevens Arms rifle/shotgun on Feb. 10, 2004, in Branson. Under federal statutes, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Charlton** has a 1995 criminal felony conviction for driving while intoxicated in Macon County, Mo.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Douglas C. Bunch. It was investigated by the Office of the Inspector General for the Social Security Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Branson, Mo., Police Department, the Branson West, Mo., Police Department and the Indian Point, Mo., Police Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow